



Reflections

VOLUME 29

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ISSUE 29

Prayer ... *Continued*

I cannot thank enough those of you who were in worship yesterday and were willing to join in our “conversation” about prayer. When I tell other clergy that, occasionally in worship, I ask the congregation questions I want them to answer out-loud, and not just think about, they usually respond the same way: “I would *never* risk doing that. What if no one’s willing to say anything? Then what do you do?” I tell them the truth: “That’s never happened to me. People have always been willing to say something.” Then they say, “You’re lucky.” And I say, “I am.”

Since a number of you had so much to say about prayer yesterday, I thought I’d take this opportunity to continue on this theme. If you have more to share, let me know! We might keep the conversation going on this page. That would be quite appropriate, since prayer is a central theme in spiritual practice yet it’s something we just assume we should know how to do and be comfortable with.

Yesterday, I shared the prayer wisdom of a woman named **Sister Wendy Beckett**. Some of you may remember Sister Wendy from a BBC/PBS series on art she did back in 2006. She was the most unlikely of media sensations: a woman with big black glasses whose overbite was screaming for an orthodontist, walking through the world’s most famous art galleries in a full habit, discovering the most remarkably beautiful, compelling aspects of a wide variety of art. Clearly she had rejected any efforts of the director or producer to make her into anyone other than she was. She came before the viewers, and before God, unprotected ... just as she was.

Which is exactly what her quote in yesterday’s bulletin tells us prayer is all about. It’s why she referred to a painting of a sailboat, which was on yesterday’s bulletin cover, as a perfect image for prayer. Here’s the quote:

*“When we pray, we are carried [like a sailboat on the water], borne along by a power that we do not and cannot direct. It is our prayer, our boat. It is we who have launched it on this sea of faith and we who stay quiet within it. But all the movement comes from God, [whom] we wait for. Where we want to go is not the point; it is where God wants to take us. We do not see where that is. There is starlight, yes, but no sun or moon, no clarity of vision ... All that is within our power is choice: do we stay still, [letting go of] control, or do we [try to] ... steer that boat ourselves?... [So] the essential act of prayer is to [come] before God [unprotected] ... Whether you are aware of [God’s] presence does not matter. God is there, whatever your feelings ... You pray for God’s sake, you are there for [God] to look on you, to love you, to take ... pleasure in you.” (Sister Wendy Beckett, **Sister Wendy on Prayer**, Harmony Books, 2007, pp. 36, 38, 45)*

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OUR CONGREGATION

Ministers - All who gather here in the name of Jesus
Pastor – Rev. Dave Shull
Office Manager - Becky Trover
Office Assistant - Diane Brobeck
Custodian - Marshall Edgington
Organist/Senior Choir Director – Kathy Rapp
Pianist/Chime Choir Director – Karen Kent
Reflections Editor - Judith Bird

2025 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President – Brad Binau
Vice President – Ashley Bird
Finance Officer - Laura Warren
Secretary – Rich Pautsch
Worship - Michelle Clemence
Education – Karen Rider
Outreach – Mary Benis
Member Support – Kathy Mimitch
Property - April Smith
Stewardship - Kathy Denhard

APPOINTMENTS

Treasurer – Kay Ernsthausen

MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM

Misato In Sara Auman
Emlyn Ott Rich Pautsch

SPECIAL FUNDS TEAM

Wendy Stoica, Chair Hitoshi Phillips
Emily Kent John Kennedy
Terry Warren Laura Warren [ex officio]

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent - Emily Ott

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Redeemer Community

Remembrance Garden in Operation

Mary Benis writes, “Thanks to everyone who helped bring the Remembrance Garden to life. We fully met the cost of the new plantings, with enough left over to cover the signage that’s on order. This whole endeavor has been a great reminder of the commitment and support of the Redeemer community.

“The garden is now fully open and available. In fact, it’s already in use. So if you want to consider placing the remains of a loved one, human or pet, in the garden or remembering them in the Memorial Book, just connect with **Pastor Dave**, who will guide you through the process.

“We do hope you’ll spend a little time in the Remembrance Garden, just enjoying that beautiful and peaceful space. It’s a really meaningful addition to the Redeemer facility, which should serve us well for many years.”

Summer Book Group Concludes This Week

Redeemer’s Summer Book Group will conclude its discussion of **James Baldwin’s *The Gospel According to James Baldwin: What America’s Great Prophet Can Teach Us about Life, Love, and Identity*** by **Greg Garrett** this week.

The group will meet on Wednesday, July 30 to discuss the book from 7-8:30 p.m. in-person and on [Zoom](#): Meeting ID: 870 4747 2119; Passcode: 360562. Phone only: 312 626 6799.

Redeemer Garden Giveaway Underway

Redeemer’s Saturday morning Garden Giveaway is now open. Stop by to pick up fresh produce from the garden beginning at 10 a.m.

‘Noisy Offering’ to Go to Kenyan Rescue Centre

Kay Ernsthansen reports that Redeemer’s “Noisy Offering” will now go to Sikhona Rescue Centre in Kitengela, Kenya. According to Kay, this is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to provide a physically and psychologically safe space for abused women and neglected children to learn and grow.

The center is a “gender-based violence recovery center where at-risk women and their children are provided shelter, health care, legal representation, and education. Children are nurtured and empowered through primary school at Rehoboth Learning Centre while at-risk women will be employed and educated on our sustainable teaching farm.”

“Sikhona” translates from Zulu to mean, “I Exist”

Kay continues, “The U.S. Executive Director of Sikhona Rescue Centre is **Elli Wachtman**. Elli is a graduate of Capital University and was in the first Bonner Class at Capital. As a Bonner student Elli volunteered 10 hours a week at First English. I knew her then, and I know her father- **Pastor Steve Wachtman**, senior pastor at Holy Trinity Church in Upper Arlington. I have chosen this organization as it gives HOPE to those who are suffering from abuse. I also want us to see there is a world out there that is not turned upside down by the U.S. political system.”

LSS Food Pantry Seeks Produce Donations

In light of reductions in the state of Ohio budget resulting in less funds for Ohio foodbanks, Lutheran Social Services (LSS) reports that they recently learned that Mid-Ohio Food Collective has had to make the difficult decision to eliminate its daily produce shop-through service provided to food pantries for the month of July. While LSS Food Pantries will still receive produce from MOFC; “the removal of this service will significantly reduce the amount of produce we will have to offer the families we serve each week in Franklin and Delaware counties ... create[ing] a gap in the resources for the month of July”

As a result, LSS is asking for donations of bags of potatoes, salad kits, bags of grapes and carrots. These items can be taken to the pantry at 1460 S Champion Ave **any Tuesday in July, between 9 a.m.-12 p.m.** OR items can be dropped off at the regularly scheduled volunteer shift, at the Champion Food Pantry. Redeemer is next set to work on Wednesday, Aug. 6 and Thursday, Aug. 21.

Sister Act Updates Summer Schedule

After some conversations, Sister Act has cancelled its July 30 event because it was inadvertently scheduled for the last night of the July book study. In addition, **Michelle Clemence** feels only one gathering is needed for making the Christmas ornaments for the new tree at church. That meeting is set for Wednesday, Aug. 6 at 6:30 p.m. here at Redeemer.

In addition, another Sister Act event has been scheduled: an outing on **Friday, Aug. 22** to go to hear **Nadia Bolz-Weber**. See this [link](#) for more information and to reserve a free ticket. (See separate story, this issue.)

Narthex Art Turns to 'Colorful Creation' for Pentecost

Inspired by the first couple verses of Isaiah 35 which mention “Wilderness and desert will sing joyously... a symphony of song and color,” the Narthex art theme for Pentecost turns to “Colorful Creation.” Stop by to see the latest items on loan from members of the congregation!

Sign Up Now to Read at Worship Services

Readers for Sunday morning services can now sign up for services over the winter. Readers, including youth and children, are encouraged to sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board, next to the Library. Readers are still needed for **Sunday, Aug. 3** on (except for **Sunday, Aug. 10**).

Readings are sent out the week before to give folks a chance to go through the lessons ahead of Sunday mornings. **Readers of all ages are encouraged to participate.**

Prayer ... Continued

I can totally see her *coming before God unprotected*, willing to be just who she is, confident God not only *doesn't expect* her to be someone else, but God would be *utterly disappointed* if she did anything to show she was afraid anything about her true self wasn't good enough for God.

Maybe that's one of the reasons I wanted to share this image of prayer as a sailboat with you all. As one of you said yesterday, it's an image that asks us to be totally vulnerable. Exactly! And in that vulnerability, we are freed from any feeling that prayer is about *getting it right*. If, as one of you said yesterday, the **Apostle Paul** tells us to *pray constantly* (I Thessalonians 5.17), then prayer has to be something we don't have to work hard at, or something that takes a lot of practice, or that's easy to mess up. A sailboat as an image for prayer says, *I take the sailboat out onto the water. And then I let go of any effort to try to control where it goes.* I let go of control. I'm not racing any other boats that may be out there. I'm not trying to impress anyone with how beautiful or graceful or fast the boat is. I choose to take the boat out on the water, which is choosing to pray. And then I let go. Vulnerable, open to wherever God takes me. Unprotected before God.

In this form of prayer, I don't need to say anything. I just let myself be. Which is why this is one of the hardest kinds of prayer there is. We're not filling it with words, or trying to come up with all kinds of things to pray. We are just floating on the water. Open, listening, trusting. That's coming before God unprotected. And is there anything more difficult? Just being, resting, silent? **Frederick Buechner** knew what he was talking about when he wrote, *None of us is very good at silence. It says too much.*

And yet that's the kind of prayer Sister Wendy is inviting us to try on. Of course it's not the only kind of prayer. There are times when our prayers have a lot of talking, laughing, yelling, crying, dancing, hugging ... lots of action. And there are also times when our prayer is coming before God unprotected, which lets us trust the last part of her quote. When we don't have to worry about doing it right, or not being enough, we can just show up as we are ... and, just maybe, trust that God is looking at us with love, delighting in us just as we are.

When we believe that, the world changes.

Dave Shull

Important Emails

Dshull@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating directly with **Pastor Dave**.

Info@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating with the office, **Reflections** newsletter, **Office Manager Becky Trover**, healing prayer requests or for general information.

MemberCare@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating with the Member Care team about needs for personal ministry such as in-home communion, a home visit, meals, etc.

FinSec@RedeemerLuth.com – use for stewardship campaigns.

Itgroup@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating with Redeemer's IT Team for items related to the website.

Property@RedeemerLuth.com – use to report items that need repair in the church building.

SundaySchool@RedeemerLuth.com – use to offer suggestions for our Sunday School ministry.

Transportation@redeemerluth.com – use to request temporary transportation assistance.

Communications@redeemerluth.com – use to send church related announcements or pictures for sharing on Redeemer's social media sites. Another way is to tag Redeemer in the posts.

Publishing Deadlines for *Reflections*, Sunday Bulletins

For *Reflections*

- PLEASE SUBMIT PRIOR TO **5 P.M. ON SUNDAYS**.
- Send to info@RedeemerLuth.com and put Reflections in subject line.
- Or leave a note in the *Reflections* mailbox at the top of the stairs outside the church office.

For Sunday Bulletins

The deadline for information to be published in Sunday bulletins is the **Wednesday morning** before. That information can be sent to the above email: just put “Bulletin” in the subject line.

Prayers and Personals

Prayers for comfort and healing are asked for **Bill Boys** who is home from the hospital and “feeling better/”

July Birthdays

29-Kathy Mimplitch
29-Becky Trover 31-Marilyn Roberts

August Birthdays

3-Kathy Pautsch 5-Julie Denniss
6-Clayton Ullman 8-Jessica Marquez
9-Justin Marquez 15-Sarah Kirkman
15-Seth Harms 16-Cathy Oldham
17-Thelma Johnson 23-Scott Steiner
25-LaVerna Reinoehl 26-Brad Binau
27-Matt Bird 29-Jon Disbro
31-Lynn Belhorn

The Wider Church

Situation in Gaza ‘Dire’

Julie Johnson provided the following update on Gaza: “The situation facing the people of Gaza is dire. While the U.S. continues, for the most part to ignore, it’s house-less population and health care isn’t considered a human right, \$3.8 billion a year is gifted to Israel to impose its system of apartheid, which includes periodic massacres in Gaza, on the Palestinian people. As we pledge to act to end racism and inequality at home, we know that our actions can reverberate worldwide. We offer the following “Lamentation for Gaza” from **Rabbi Brant Rosen** of Tzedek Chicago.

A Lamentation for Gaza

Gaza weeps alone.
Bombs falling without end
her cheeks wet with tears.
A widow abandoned
imprisoned on all sides
with none willing to save her.

We who once knew oppression
have become the oppressors.
Those who have been pursued
are now the pursuers.
We have uprooted families
from their homes, we have
driven them deep into
this desolate place,
this narrow strip of exile.

All along the roads there is mourning.
The teeming marketplaces
have been bombed into emptiness.
The only sounds we hear
are cries of pain
sirens blaring
drones buzzing
bitterness echoing
into the black vacuum
of homes destroyed
and dreams denied.

We have become Gaza's master
leveling neighborhoods
with the mere touch of a button
for her transgression of resistance.
Her children are born into captivity
they know us only as occupiers
enemies to be feared
and hated.

We have lost all
that once was precious to us.
This fatal attachment to our own might
has become our downfall.
This idolatrous veneration of the land
has sent us wandering into
a wilderness of our own making.

We have robbed Gaza of
her deepest dignity
plunged her into sorrow and darkness.
Her people crowd into refugee camps
held captive by fences and buffer zones
gunboats, mortar rounds
and Apache missiles.

We sing of Jerusalem,
to "a free people in their own land"
but our song has become a mockery.
How can we sing a song of freedom
imprisoned behind walls we have built
with our own fear and dread?

Here we sit clinging to our illusions
of comfort and security
while we unleash hell on earth
on the other side of the border.
We sit on hillsides and cheer
as our explosions light up the sky
while far below, whole neighborhoods
are reduced to rubble.

For these things I weep:
for the toxic fear we have unleashed
from the dark place of our hearts
for the endless grief
we are inflicting
on the people of Gaza.

ELCA Churchwide Assembly Meets This Week, to Elect New Bishop

The 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will be held July 28–Aug. 2 in Phoenix, AZ. The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the primary decision-making body of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is a process of communal spiritual discernment. When the ELCA Churchwide Assembly convenes, its voting members meet with confidence in God's grace around word and water, wine and bread, to carry on their work on behalf of the entire church. Over the course of the assembly, voting members:

- Hear reports and review the work of churchwide officers, leaders and units.
- Receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies.
- Elect officers including a new bishop to succeed **Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**, board members and other leaders as specified by the constitution or bylaws.
- Establish ELCA churchwide policy.
- Worship together.
- Adopt a budget.
- Conduct other business related to the ELCA churchwide organization.

Prayer Concerns from ELCA

July 29 Ask the Spirit to grant us humility and courage, that we might recognize and repent for our legacy of injustice, false history and mistreatment of Indigenous people, which persist today. Pray that our church and society will work toward truth, repentance, healing and unity — God's work of reconciliation in the world.

30 International Day of Friendship: Promise to build bridges among individuals, countries and cultures, stirring empathy, inspiring peace and promoting mutual understanding and respect for diversity.

31 Thank God for the ELCA's special relationship with the Reformed Church in America, a full communion partner since 1997. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find strength and resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

August 1 We are church for the sake of the world, celebrating the abundant life that has been promised by God and fulfilled in Christ's life, death and resurrection. Pray for the Spirit to guide and inspire the discussions, decisions and work of the 2025 Churchwide Assembly, that our church will proclaim and exemplify the grace we have in Jesus.

2 Give thanks for those who participated in the Churchwide Assembly and ask God to protect them as they return to their faith communities.

3 Pray that when our interest is drawn to specific issues in our communities and the world, we will not lose sight of other issues that persist but have slipped away from public awareness.

4 Pray for worship leaders and musicians gathering for the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians conference in Raleigh-Durham, NC, that their passion, creativity and skills for leading music will grow as a means of expressing faith and sharing the gospel.

The Community Beyond

National Night Out Set for Aug. 5

National Night Out (NNO), an annual community-building campaign, promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. It provides a great opportunity for safer communities and connections between neighbors, police, and firefighters. NNO will be at Berwick Alternative School's open area off South Roosevelt Ave. and Scottwood Rd. on **Tuesday, August 5** from 6-8 p.m.

There will be free food, music, community resources, and other fun activities. Be sure to stop by and visit Redeemer's Outreach Team table.

As a bonus, come early for free produce from the Berwick Alternative Community Garden. Their stand is by the school's parking lot. Volunteers will be there from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Check out Berwick Civic Association on Facebook for more details.

Virtual Death Cafes Now on Zoom!

Emily Kent hosts a virtual Death Cafe on the fourth Tuesday of every month. They run from 7-8:30 p.m. Zoom Meeting ID 880 4396 8579, passcode 478465. "Please join us for a non-judgmental conversation about death and dying." The next one is set for **Tuesday, Aug. 26**.

Reynoldsburg Community Band Announces Concerts

The Reynoldsburg Community Band has announced the schedule for its free concerts this summer. Please come and join the band ... and **April Smith** and **Linda Williams**, who both play in the group! More information about the band can be found [HERE](#). *Mark your calendars for the following concerts:*

Sunday, August 10 at 7 p.m.
Columbus Park of Roses
3901 N. High St.

Monday, August 11 at 7 p.m.
Reynoldsburg Senior Center
1520 Davidson Drive, Reynoldsburg

Sunday, August 17 at 7:30 p.m.
Village Green Park
47 Hall St, Powell, OH

Getting Ready for Worship

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

August 3, 2025 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14 – 2:18-23; Psalm 107:1-9, 43; Luke 12:13-21

Prayer of the Day

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

- + For the people of All Shepherd's Lutheran Church in Lewis Center.
- + For Redeemer community members Jessica, Justin, Cora and Issac Marquez.

Each week we remember in our prayers in worship those who cannot be with us and those with special needs and concerns: Bebe McCoy, Robin Stokes, Bonnie Hegreness, Mary Kennedy, Kevin Bailey's sisters Kleta Childs and Karla Weaver, Bebe McCoy's brother-in-law Walt and her sister Jan, Brittany Parsons, Mary Bowling's sister Val, John Kennedy's niece Michele Wolfe, Maddie Sutphin, the Trover's son-in-law Brandon James, Skye Andree, Kris Kauffman, Ruth Murray's daughter Ellen Rose and family, Kathie Ehrich, Dottie and Larry Bird, Kelley Frank's mother Charlotte Frank, Al Debelak and Karen Riccio, Edwina Bradley, Karen Rider's niece Tammy and her friend Betsy Wagner, Sue, Tim and Lisa Watson, Heidi Carman, Bill Boys, Larry Jones.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Lynn Belhorn
Cantor	Wendy Stoica
ASL Interpreter	Marilyn Floyd
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Kathleen Zwanziger
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Producers	Michele Disbro, Scott Steiner
Communion Prep	Becky Fisher and Eileen Day
Hospitality	Ashley and Judith Bird

*The Noisy Offering will go to Sikhona Rescue Centre in Kitengela, Kenya.
Flowers are given by Becky and Larry Trover in celebration of Ginny's birthday*

Upcoming Events at Redeemer July 28– August 4, 2025

Monday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS
Tuesday	11:00 a.m.	Member Care
	2:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Suzuki School
	7:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Summer Book Study
Thursday	10:30 a.m.	Suzuki School
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Garden Giveaway
Sunday	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion
Monday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	4:30 p.m.	ZOOM Executive Team
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS
	5:30 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 2462

Redeemer's mission: To be followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all
Redeemer's vision: To foster understanding and healing in community
Redeemer's Values: Inclusion, Compassion, Justice